

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Border Guard Zastava "63-41 Sliva"

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REFERENCES

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1. A Border Guard observation post, manned by soldiers of Zastava "63-41 Sliva" is located on the summit of "Ela Tepe" (N 41-22, E 25-59), which is approximately two kilometers southeast of the zastava and about 3.5 kilometers from the border. "Ela Tepe" is a high peak with oak woods on its slopes and offers a good view toward the border with the exception of an area one kilometer in size located in the vicinity of "Kereslik" (N 41-20, E 25-56). The peak is rock and at the foot of the peak there is an oak tree in which a small observation platform has been constructed. This platform is reached by a wooden ladder. The view to the south from this platform is unobstructed, while to the north there are other oak trees which obstruct the view but offer camouflage for the observation post. In case of strong winds, the observers do not climb the tree but remain on the rock.
2. Observation post duty is carried out by two Border Guards armed with a submachine gun, a rifle and two hand grenades per man. A range finder is used for observation by one man while the other covers the observer.
3. Observation post duty consists of two daytime shifts. Relief of the observers occurs at the observation post. The usual schedule is as follows:
 - a. First Shift:

Leaves the zastava at	4:30 a.m.
Arrives at the Observation Post at	5:30 a.m.
Returns to the zastava at	1:00 p.m.

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b. Second Shift:

Leaves the zastava at	11:00 a.m.
Arrives at the Observation Post at	12:00 noon
Returns to the zastava (winter) at	7:00 p.m.
Returns to the zastava (summer) at	9:30 p.m.

Only one path is used by the soldiers to and from the observation post. The path is located east of the zastava and leads to "Zhulti Chal" (N 41-22, E 25-00). Approximately 1-1.5 kilometers from the zastava, the path forks and soldiers take the south branch leading to the area "Gornata Vodenitsa." Before reaching this area, the path forks again one of them leading to "Ela Tepe."

4. A Sekret is a stationary night time post of two or more Border Guards. Normally this guard duty lasts eight hours but during an alert it may last 12 hours, which includes the time taken going to and from the post. The relief takes place at the Sekret. However, the usual procedure is that the two shifts meet half way between the zastava and the Sekret. The Sekrets between the zastava and the border have shifts while those north of the zastava have only one shift.
5. Zastavas are separated by theoretical boundary lines running vertically from the border. The most intensely guarded portions of the area of the zastavas are their boundary lines close to the border. The guarding of the area between the boundary lines is assigned to observers or Sekrets.
6. In the winter, the Sekrets consist of a single 4-hour shift, but the men from one zastava do not leave until the men from the neighboring zastava assume their position. In this way, although the number of guards is less, the boundary lines of the zastava are still well guarded at night.
7. The location of Sekrets in the area of the zastava are determined and designated by high headquarters and cannot be altered by the zastava commanding officer. There were no changes in locations of Sekrets in the Sliva Zastava during [redacted] 1952.
8. The following were the "Sekreti" and their code names of Zastava "63-41 Sliva":
 - a. Sekret "Na Zida" (on the wall);
 - b. Sekret "Na Putekata" (on the path);
 - c. Sekret "Na Dulgata Polyana" (in the long meadow);
 - d. Sekret "V lyavo ot Putekata" (to the left of the path);
 - e. Sekret "Na Dolnata Vodenitsa" (at the lower mill);
 - f. Sekret "Na Gornata Vodenitsa" (at the upper mill);
 - g. ~~Sekret~~ "Yanevi Chereshi" (Yanev's cherry trees);
 - h. Sekret "V Punovskoto Dere" (in Punov's gully); and
 - i. Sekret "V Yurushkoto Dere" (in Yurush's gully).
9. The "Na Zida" Sekret is located in the vicinity of the "Zida" area which is on the west dividing line of the zastava and adjacent to the "Kartala" area (N 41-20, E 25-56), in the vicinity of Zastava "63-41 Buk." "Zida" does not extend to the border line, but is about 500 meters north of the border. The Sekret "Na Zida" is located approximately 500 meters north of the border line and about five kilometers south of the zastava. There is a beech forest to the north of this area. The south side is bare with only one pear tree. The area around this tree is always muddy. About 10 meters north of the pear tree there are two small springs. The Sekret "Na Zida" stands near the pear tree.

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10. The Sekret "Na Putekata" is also located in the "Zida" area. "Zida" covers an area of approximately two kilometers in a north-south direction and is about 500 meters wide. The Sekret "Na Putekata" is in the middle of the "Zida" area and about one kilometer north of the Sekret "Na Zida." This is in the fork of the zastava border line path and the Zastava "63-41 Buk." This fork is 1500 meters from the border line, four kilometers southwest of the zastava, 800 meters southeast of Sekret "Dulgata Polyana" and one kilometer south of Sekret "to the left of the path."
11. The Sekret "Na Dulgata Polyana" is in the "Dulgata Polyana" area west of and adjacent to the "Zida" area. In this area, there is an oblong meadow of 7-8 decars. In the center of the meadow there is a grove of 10 oak trees. The largest oak tree is about 10 meters high and dominates the entire view. The guards of this Sekret stand under this oak tree. The Sekret is about 800 meters northwest of Sekret "Na Putekata," 2-25 kilometers from the border line and four kilometers southwest of the zastava.
12. The Sekret "V lyavo ot putekata" is located 2.5 kilometers southwest from the zastava, one kilometer north of Sekret "Na Putekata" and one kilometer northeast of Sekret "Na Dulgata Polyana." It is 50 meters to the left of the zastava-"Zida" path. There is a four decar meadow at this place. On the east side of the meadow, there is a big oak tree which is the beginning of a forest, 4-5 kilometers in area. Next to the oak tree are the ruins of an old shack which hide the Sekret posts. It is well camouflaged and controls the approaches to the path and the meadow.
13. The Sekret "Na Dolnata Vodenitsa" is in the "Dolnata Vodenitsa" area. Through this area runs the eastern dividing line of Zastava "Sliva," and its neighboring zastava, "Leska." This area does not extend to the border line. North of this area is "Zhultechatskite Zozya" (N 41-21, E 25-60).
14. The Sekret post is in a gully that crosses the "Dolnata Vodenitsa" area. The gully begins in the border line area and runs north crossing the "Khladkite" (N 41-21, E 25-58)-"Zhulti Chal" (N 41-22, E 25-60) dirt road. On this crossing is the Sekret post. The dirt road is two kilometers from the border line and parallel to it. The Sekret is five kilometers southeast from the zastava, 1-2 kilometers from the border line and almost on the dividing line of Zastava "Leska." This place controls a good view to the east for more than 100 meters, and to the west for more than 250 meters. It controls the gully coming from the border which has the properties of a trench being four meters wide and 1.5 meters deep. The route of the Sekret takes the path to the observation post and follows it for 1.5 kilometers. The path forks and the posts take the south branch following it for another 1.5 kilometers. The path joins the "Zhulti chal" dirt road, passes through the "Gornata Vodenitsa" area and reaches the Sekret "Dolnata Vodenitsa" one kilometer eastward.
15. The Sekret "Na Gornata Vodenitsa" is in the vicinity of the east dividing line of the zastava, two kilometers from the border line, 3.5-4 kilometers southeast from the zastava, about one kilometer west of Sekret "Dolnata Vodenitsa" and 800 meters north of Sekret "Yanevi Chereshi." The Sekret is placed in the triangle formed by two gullies coming from the border. At this point are the ruins of an old water mill.
16. The Sekret "Yanevi Chereshi" is in the middle of the "Yanevi Chereshi" area, between the "Gornata Vodenitsa" area and the border. The Sekret post is located in the ruins of an old house, about 8 x 6 meters, which is 500 meters east of the gully that passes through "Gornata Vodenitsa" and in the vicinity of the path which traverses the "Yanevi Chereshi" area. The area, 50 meters in diameter, immediately around this place is bare, but the rest is covered with juniper shrubs which makes it almost impassable. People must follow the paths which will lead them to the old ruins. The Sekret is approximately five kilometers southeast of the zastava, about one kilometer from the border, 1.2 kilometers southwest of Sekret "Na Dolnata Vodenitsa" and about 700-800 meters south of Sekret "Na Gornata Vodenitsa."

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17. Sekret "V Pūnovskoto Dere" is located in the big gully between Boturcha (N 41-23, E 25-57) and Pūnovo (N 41-23, E 25-58), Ivailovgrad Okoliya. The Sekret is placed where the straight line connecting the two villages traverse the big gully, 50 meters northeast of the 15-16 meter high poplar tree. There are two poplar trees in the gully. The Sekret posts control the gully and the paths that traverse it. The Sekret is two kilometers north of the zastava and seven kilometers north of the border. About one kilometer southwest of the Sekret is a water mill where the second poplar tree is located. The route of the Sekret posts follows the zastava-Pūnovo dirt road and then the Pūnovo-Poturcha dirt road up to the gully.
18. Sekret "V Yurushkato dere" is in the "Yurushko dere" area but its exact location is unknown.
19. The following timetable is for Sekrets, "Na Zida," "Na Pūtekata," "Na Dūlgata Polyana" and "Vilyavo ot Pūtekata" of Sliva Zastava:
 - a. First Shift; from 4:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.; time spent at the Sekret is from 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.; the rest of the time is for movement to and from the Sekret;
 - b. Second Shift; from midnight - 7:00 a.m.; time spent on the spot from 2 a.m. - 5 a.m.
20. The following is for Sekrets, "Na Dolnata Dodenitsa", "Na Gornata Vodenitsa" and "Yanevi Chereshi":
 - a. First Shift; from 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.; time spent on the spot from 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.;
 - b. Second Shift; from midnight - 7 a.m.; time spent on the spot from 1:30 a.m. - 5:30 a.m.
21. The following is the timetable for Sekrets, "V Pūnovskoto Dere" and "V Yurushkoto Dere"; which consists of one shift because they are located north of the zastava:
 - a. First Shift; from 6 p.m. - 2 a.m.; time spent on the spot from 7:10 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
22. Day time Patrol (Dozor; observers of the area) consist of two or more Border Guards who move along a predetermined route and whose duty is to spot violators or remnants revealing violators' presence in the area. The dozor is of one shift and lasts eight hours. It is usually sent during the day.
23. The following are the dozors from Zastava "63-41 Sliva":
 - a. The first one begins on the path toward the "Vūlchi Prokhod" ((N/41-21, E 25-58) area, three kilometers south of the zastava. The dozor then takes the "Gornata Vodenitsa"- "Zhulti Chal" dirt road and reaches "Dolnata Vodenitsa." The dozor then turns back following the same route to the "Vūlchi Prokhod" area where it takes a north bound path which merges with the "Observation Post"-zastava path and arrives at the zastava. The length covered by this dozor is about 10 kilometers.
 - b. The second dozor starts out on the zastava-"Zida" path where Sekrets are posted at night. The dozor reaches the south outskirts of the "Zida" area, passes along the north side of the border fence and takes the path leading to the "Khladkite" area. It traverses this area and leads toward the "Vūlchi Prokhod" area. From here, the dozor takes a path that brings it to the west side of Bezantsi, Ivailovgrad Okoliya, where it joins the zastava-"Zida" path and arrives at the zastava. The length covered by this area is about 12 kilometers.

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24. These two dozors guard the central front section of the zastava area. There are no dozors guarding the area north of the zastava. The usual timetable is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and exceptionally, from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.
25. The Sekrets and dozors from the komandatura are usually given on and around New Year's, from 15 December to 5 January. There is no information that these komandatura Sekrets and dozors were given on 1 May or 9 September. About New Year's, there were two Sekrets and two dozors as follows:
- a. Sekrets:
- (1) The first one was placed one kilometer southeast of Gugutka in the river bed passing through Gugutka; and
 - (2) The second one is placed two kilometers south of Gugutka, 200 meters west of the Gugutka-Boturcha road, on the hill in the small oak grove under the single poplar tree.
- b. Dozors:
- (1) The first dozor commences from Gugutka and follows the river bed for three kilometers in a southeasterly direction, turn south, passes through Boturcha and reaches the mill in "Pčinovsko Dere"; and
 - (2) The second dozor starts out on the Gugutka-Kazak road, reaches Kazak and then returns.

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